

# Nkandla upgrade grotesque: Cosatu

**CRAVEN:** 'Grossly insensitive to workers and poor'

THE R206 million security upgrade to President Jacob Zuma's Nkandla home, in KwaZulu-Natal, is "grotesque", Cosatu said yesterday.

"Cosatu does not question the state taking adequate measures to secure the president and other public office bearers. This is a norm throughout the world," Congress of SA Trade Unions (Cosatu) spokesman Patrick Craven said.

"However... for the government to spend such a grotesque amount of public money on any one person is shocking and grossly insensitive to the workers, the poor and the homeless."

On Sunday, Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi said the government spent R206 million on secur-

**snip** Office bearers who approved the use of the money need to be held accountable, says union federation's spokesman.

ity upgrades and consultants for Nkandla. Included in this amount was R135 million for the "operational needs" of various government departments, R71 million for consultants, and security features such as bulletproof windows, security fencing, evacuation mechanisms, and fire-fighting equipment, he told reporters in Pretoria.

Also included in the total was R26 million to make changes to the

project (variation orders).

Craven said office bearers who approved the use of money for the project needed to be held accountable. "The amounts that the minister now concedes were spent vindicate our decision to ask the Public Protector and the Auditor-General to investigate them to check if each of them can be morally justified."

He said Cosatu was concerned about the fact that Nxesi's Nkandla team uncovered evidence of irregularities in the appointment of service providers.

"We call for the publication of all the names of all the service providers, including the names of their directors and shareholders," Craven said. — Sapa.

## Motshekga blasts DA's 'Nkandlagate' report move

**NGWAKO MODJADJI**

THE office of the ANC Chief Whip Mathole Motshekga yesterday said a call to have the public works report on President Jacob Zuma's Nkandla residence made public is misguided and defies common sense.

This is after the Democratic Alliance (DA) parliamentary leader, Lindiwe Mazibuko lodged an application, in terms of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), to gain access to the now secret "Nkandlagate" report.

A formal request had also been made to Manana Mabuza, the chairman of Parliament's public works portfolio committee, to have the report tabled and discussed in the committee.

Mazibuko called Zuma to "do the right thing and intervene to ensure that his government tables the report in Parliament for proper scrutiny and debate".

The DA parliamentary leader said if he failed to do so, she would table the report herself, having gained access to the document through her

PAIA application.

"I will table the report myself, as I am empowered to do as a member of the National Assembly," she said.

ANC spokesman Moloto Mothapo hit back saying: "We can only assume that her call was made on the spur of the moment, overwhelmed by the excitement of the media platform, and would therefore give her the benefit of the doubt."

"As a leader of the official opposition in Parliament, Mazibuko ought to know that Parliament does not conduct public debates on reports of this nature, particularly those dealing with sensitive security information relating to the state or the head of the state."

On Sunday, Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi said the full report of the Nkandla task team would not be made public. Nxesi said the report would not be made public because Nkandla was declared a national key point in April 2010.

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